

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAJ-01 IO-10 CU-02 ACDA-05 /078 W

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R 021558Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5270

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15201

E.O. 11652: XGDS-L

TAGS: PFOR, UK, CZ

SUBJECT: STATUS OF BRITISH DEMARCHE TO CZECHS ON POLITI-
CAL PRISONERS

REF: USNATO 4758

1. DURING OCTOBER 2 CALL ON FCO EASTERN EUROPEAN AND
SOVIET DEPARTMENT HEAD, BRIAN CARTLEDGE, EMBOFF INQUIRED
REGARDING STATUS OF LIST OF CZECHOSLOVAK POLITICAL PRIS-
ONERS WHICH PRIME MINISTER WILSON HAD PROPOSED TO SEND TO
PRESIDENT HUSAK WHEN TWO MET IN HELSINKI (REFTEL PARA 9).

2. CARTLEDGE SAID BRITISH HAD DECIDED TO TRANSMIT LIST
THROUGH PARTY RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTAL CHANNELS. THEY
HAD HOPED TO USE OCCASION OF FORTHCOMING VISIT BY DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL (PRAGUE 2421 NOTAL) FOR PRESENTA-
TION OF LIST, BUT ABSENCE FROM LONDON OF LABOR PARTY "CHO-
SEN VESSEL" DURING SPACIL'S VISIT WOULD MEAN THAT ANOTHER
OCCASION, PERHAPS THE VISIT OF A LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL TO
PRAGUE, WOULD BE SOUGHT. (CARTLEDGE DID NOT FURTHER IDEN-
TIFY "CHOSEN VESSEL," WHO WE SUSPECT MAY BE IAN MIKARDO,
ONE OF LEADING LIGHTS IN LABOR PARTY'S LEFT WING
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AND HEAD OF PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.)

3. WHEN CARTLEDGE OBSERVED THAT SPACIL WAS, TO A GREAT EXTENT, AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY TO BRITISH, EMBOFF NOTED THAT WE HAD FOUND SPACIL, WHEN LATTER WAS CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, TO BE AN ABLE, CIVILIZED, AND RELATIVELY PLEASANT NEGOTIATING PARTNER.

SPIERS

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